



Board of Directors

Officers

Francis "Bus" Spaniola,
President
Corunna

Tom Truscott,
Vice-President
Lansing

Keith G. Harrison,
Secretary
Holt

Richard S. Johnson,
Treasurer
East Lansing

Directors

Adriana Greci Green
Detroit

Larry Griffin
Lansing

John Irwin
Holt

Rose Moye
Laingsburg

Charles Seeley
Lansing

Ralph Sims
Lansing

Louise W. Stilwill
East Lansing

Paul M. Tarr, Jr
Lansing

Morris Thomas
Lansing

Bill Wellman
East Lansing

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann
Lansing



Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

June 8, 2009

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:00 A.M.

Board Members Present: Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison, John Irwin, Richard Johnson, Charles Seeley, Bus Spaniola, Louise Stilwill, Paul Tarr, Morris Thomas, Tom Truscott, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Wiskemann.

Board Members Absent: Adriana Greci Green, Rose Moye, and Ralph Sims.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green, Rose Moye, and Ralph Sims.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Martha Bloomfield, and Phil Kwiatkowski.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the May Board meeting; motion passed.

President's Report

President Spaniola reported passed and then summarized his annual report (which is attached). One of his single largest concerns was the 100-person membership drop between this year and last. The Friends needs to devise and implement ways to increase and maintain membership as well as raising funds. During the ensuing discussion, one of the single most important reasons for the decline in membership (aside from the fact that the economy is poor) is that we are not getting our information out. Our newsletter has not been going out and that is the only form of advertisement that we have to provide news to our members, to promote our programs, and to raise funds. Without a regularly sent out newsletter, the Friends will continue to drop in membership. There was a consensus that the newsletter absolutely has to be sent out and sent out on a routine basis. Without a regularly sent out newsletter, the Friends will continue to drop in membership. Also, without a newsletter, we will not be able to provide the Museum and other worthy Michigan History organizations and projects with funding.

Bill Wellman indicated that he will work with Paul Tarr to get the newsletter out and onto a regular schedule. It also was emphasized that Jennifer Sochor needs a camera-ready product to send out. She is not available to design or edit the newsletter.

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It was mentioned, however, that we could, through Jennifer, electronically provide our membership with information on the Collete travel programs and the code that they need to get the travel savings benefits through Collete. President Spaniola asked that this be done.

It also was mentioned that we (meaning members of the Board) could start to put on seminars for the public to help raise awareness and funds (through suggested donations) for the Friends. Morris Thomas indicated that he would be happy to provide the first seminar dealing with Michigan History and Geography. President Spaniola asked that he proceed to put together what he needs and provide an update at the next meeting. Keith Harrison brought up the concern that this program idea was great, but it will not succeed if our newsletter is not getting out. The issue is again that we need to have a regularly functioning newsletter going out to our membership.

President Spaniola also reported on a meeting that he had had with the Foundation. He expressed concern that, among other things that Foundation wants to do, the suggestion that the Foundation might like to take on the responsibilities of the Friends, which would, in essence, result in the elimination of the Friends as an entity. He indicated that there will be other meetings and expressed a desire for other Board members to attend. There was a consensus of the Board that if such a move came to fruition, there would be a vigorous and thorough opposition raised by the Friends Board.

Treasurer Report

BALANCE	05-01-09	8,5490.13
DEPOSITS	5-13-09	+ 242.60
TOTAL		9,182.73
Cashed Checks		
1437	Historic Fort Wayne	75.00
1441	Walker Tavern	16.60
1442	K. Socher	19.07
1443	Link (Docents)	450.00
1444	ABC Printing	929.58
1445	P. Tarr	98.29
1446	PEERS	<u>100.00</u>
Total	1,688.54	-1,688.54
BALANCE	05-31-09	7,494.19
Available Funds		8,865.13
Benevolent Fund	50.00	

A motion was made and seconded to approve, as transmitted, the Treasurer's report or the period May 1 – May 31, 2009; motion passed.

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Presentation of Bills

Two previously approved bills were discussed in terms of how they should be paid (\$34.45 for ink from postage meter and a bill from the Legislative Reception \$370.67). No other bills presented that were not otherwise previously approved were presented.

Museum Report

Phil Kwiatkowshi indicated that everything is still up in the air in terms of the final location and status of the Michigan Historical Center. At this point, however, the Museum is still proceeding on schedule with all of its programs. He stated that during the upcoming six furlough days that state employees have to take off, the Michigan Historical Center will be closed. Finally, he indicated that the Friends may again be able to meet on the 5th floor – possibly by the July meeting.

Committee Reports

A. *2009 Veterans Day Program Committee. (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs):* Additional speakers were suggested.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair).* Keith Harrison reported on three upcoming programs where the Friends display will be up. The first is the Lansing Juneteenth Celebration which will take place on June 20th (An email was sent out to each Board member by Ralph Sims). The second is during that annual Ag Expo program, which will take place July 21 – 23 at Michigan State University. The third is the Annual Jackson Civil War Muster, which will be on August 29 and 30. Board members were encouraged to help staff the display table on these dates. Board members who can help out with the Lansing Juneteenth Celebration program need to contact Ralph Sims. Charles Seeley passed out a signup sheet for Board members to help out the July MSU program, and Keith indicated that he would start to get volunteers signed up for the Civil War Muster beginning at the July meeting.

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley and Tom Truscott).* Charles Seeley indicated that he did not have any names for new Board members. He and Tom Truscott did, however, present a proposed slate of officers for the Friends Board for the 2009/2010 year. They were Francis “Bus” Spaniola for President, Tom Truscott for Vice President, Keith Harrison for Secretary, Richard Johnson for Treasurer, and Paul Tarr for Member-at-Large.

A motion was made and seconded to nominate and elect the above slate of officers for the Friends Board of Directors; motion passed.

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair).* Paul Tarr indicated that he needed to pick up the magazines so they can be sent overseas.

E. *Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair).* No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Bill Wellman, Co-chairs).* President Spaniola indicated that this topic was already discussed under his President's Report.

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G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*. Paul Tarr provided the Board with some sample pins and suggested that the Board could raise funds by having Michigan History Pins made and then sold to the membership. The idea was considered to be a good idea provided that we can get the pins marketed (i.e., advertised in a Newsletter) to our membership.

H. *Calendar (2011) Committee (Tom Truscott & Rose Moye, Co-chairs)*. No report.

I. *Bylaws (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. Paul Tarr passed out some sample preliminary language that would begin to address the issues raised at the April meeting in terms of needed changes in the Bylaws. It was suggested that this should be presented to the Board at its July meeting as a recommendation from the full Bylaws committee.

Old Business

A. *License Plates*. President Spaniola indicated that the bill is still making its way through the Legislature.

B. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status*. There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

C. *Telephonic Board Attendance*. Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

D. *Charitable Solicitation License*. Secretary Keith Harrison stated that application for the Friends Charitable Solicitation License had been submitted and then thanked Board member Bill Wellman for his assistance. Keith indicated that once he hears back from the Attorney General Office, he will let the Board know.

New Business

A. *Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster Battle Streamers*. Keith Harrison passed around the mock up of the Battle Streamer for the Jackson Civil War Muster. As in previous years, the Battle Streamers have on the bottom "Friends of Michigan History, Inc." The estimated cost of the Battle Streamers is \$300.00.

A motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$300.00 for the cost of the Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster; motion passed.

B. Tom Truscott requested consideration of the Friends paying \$172.57 for the engraving cost of the Swainson Plaque.

A motion was made and seconded to pay \$172.57 for the engraving cost of the Swainson Plaque; motion passed.

C. Geneva Wiskemann indicated that the Michigan Oral History Conference will be in the Upper Peninsula (Northern Michigan University) this year and stated that the Board had traditionally

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provided funding towards the conference.

A motion was made and seconded to provide \$500.00 towards the Michigan Oral History Conference; motion passed.

President Spaniola stated that a cake will be provided during the July meeting in honor and recognition of Chris Dancisak to the Friends of Michigan History.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at Noon.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, July 13, 2009 in Lansing.

**FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC.
PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009**

The fiscal year 2008/2009 was a challenging and at the same time a rewarding period for the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. Our mission to support Michigan Historical Center operations took on added significance because of the fiscal difficulties facing the State of Michigan. The success of the Friends program this year is due to the support of our membership, the dedicated efforts of the Board of Directors, the cooperative efforts of many dedicated employees of the Michigan Historical Center along with the Executive Director and the Board members of the Michigan History Foundation.

Among the purposes for which the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. was organized is to "receive and administer funds for the betterment of the Michigan Historical Center and other Michigan organizations devoted to the fostering and preservation of Michigan History; to promote the educational and interpretive activities of the Historical Center and other Michigan organizations that promote the preservation of Michigan History; and to support the museum, docent organization, archives and archaeology programs conducted for the Michigan Historical Center. Therefore, I am proud to report some of our activities in support of the above listed goals:

Co- sponsored: Museum Legislative Reception - May 2009

Sponsored: Annual Veterans Day Program and Massing of the Colors – Nov. 2008

Co-sponsored: Evening With Jeff Haas fund raiser-Oct. 2008

Participated: Elijah Myers dedications at State Capitol and Woodlawn Cemetery

Established: Friends Travel Program in cooperation with Collette Travel

Participated: Book Fair fund raiser with Barnes and Noble

Contributed: \$825 for Jackson Cascades Civil War Reenactment program-2008

Contributed: \$500 for Museum Harvest Fest Program-2008

Contributed: \$1000 for Museum Winter Fest Program-2008

Contributed: \$1000 for Museum Archaeology Day Program-2008

Contributed: \$500 for Museum Haunted History Program-2008

Contributed: \$1000 for Museum Docent Symposium-2008

Contributed: \$1000 for Museum Statehood Day Program-2009

Contributed: \$500 for Museum Community Outreach Program-2008

Contributed: \$500 for Museum Archives Projects-2008

Contributed: \$200 for Historic Fort Wayne Projects-2008

Contributed: \$750 for Museum Michigan Travel Mixer Program-2009

Contributed: \$450 for Michigan Historical Society Awards-2008

Allocated: \$450 for Michigan Historical Society Awards-2009

Allocated: \$700 for Museum Be a Tourist Program-2009

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Summer Sizzles Day Camp-2009

Allocated: \$700 for Museum Harvest Fest program-2009

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Archaeology Day Program-2009

Allocated: \$700 for Museum Haunted History Program-2009

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Winter Fest Program-2009

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Docent Program-2009-2010

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Statehood Day Program-2010

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Scout/Week-end Programs-2009

Allocated: \$500 for Museum Community Outreach Program-2009

The Friends of Michigan History Walker Tavern affiliate is working in support of the Hewitt House renovation which will require nearly \$60,000 to complete. The Walker Tavern group has committed \$7,500 over a three year period to the renovation fund in addition to other significant contributions in time and money.

Our Fayette Historic Town Site affiliate continues its solid support of programs at Fayette. Among other projects they are engaged in raising funds to restore Building #4 "to house archaeology findings related to Native Americans of the Fayette area". Their goal is to raise \$12,000 over the next two years for this project.

The two affiliates have over \$20,000 collectively in their treasuries. These funds will support program and facility enhancements at each location.

The Friends have contributed or allocated over \$17,000 during this fiscal year in support of Michigan History related operations and programs.

The Friends face serious challenges for 2009-2010. The state of the general economy has necessarily reduced the State of Michigan's ability to fully fund history related programs. At a time when Friends contributions of support for these programs increases in importance, the Friends face, because of the economy, a reduction in our membership. We now have approximately 460 dues paying members compared to a total of over 600 at this time last year. Our need to expand our membership has never been more important to the survival of quality state museum programs. Please do whatever you can to help increase our membership.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt personal thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Francis "Bus" Spaniola